

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 20

\$2.8 Million In Stimulus Funds Will Be Spent On Fighting Forest Fires in Washington, D.C. – Only One Problem: Washington D.C. Doesn't Have Any Forests

- The U.S. Forest Service will spend \$2.8 million in “Wildland Fire Management” stimulus funds on Washington, D.C., despite the fact that the city does not have a national forest. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) does not even include Washington, D.C. in its annual wildfire statistics.
- And While D.C. will use the money to restore public parks and watersheds, real forest fires have already blackened 250 square miles of Southern California. Representative Wally Herger, whose district has experienced massive wild fires this year, told *The Washington Times* that “While the administration is spending millions of taxpayer dollars on improving picnic grounds, communities and citizens' lives tragically remain at risk.”
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, taxpayer funds would not be used to fight forest fires in city that doesn't have forests. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Sources:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAYM24PGuH0>
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/sep/11/forest-fire-aid-given-to-dc-parks//print/>
<http://www.wtop.com/?sid=1769598&nid=25>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.